

Astronaut Schmitt Visits GRC LIDS Seal Lab

Astronaut Dr. Harrison Schmitt (left) visited GRC's Low Impact Docking System (LIDS) Seal Lab Bldg. 63, in October. NASA Glenn is developing the seal technology for LIDS which is the Orion docking system. While touring the lab, he met with members of the LIDS staff, including Dr. Bruce Steinetz, Senior Technologist and Seal Team Leader (right), who is seen here showing features of the full scale static seal test rig used to measure leakage over the operational temperature range. Dr. Steinetz also discussed the actuated test rig (100,000 lb load capacity) to be used to measure LIDS seal loads during simulated docking/undocking operation. During Apollo 17's flight to the Moon in December 1972, Dr. Schmitt—the only geologist to land on the moon—collected the rock samples suggesting that the Moon once possessed an active magnetic field.

